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Abstract

5 This invention relates to improved methods for nucleic acid detection using  
methods such as the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). More specifically, the invention  
provides methods for simultaneous amplification and detection to enhance the speed  
and accuracy of prior methods. The methods involve the introduction of detectable  
DNA binding agents into the amplification reaction, which agents produce a detectable  
signal that is enhanced upon binding double-stranded DNA. In a preferred  
embodiment, the binding agent is a fluorescent dye. The methods also provide means  
10 for monitoring the increase in product DNA during an amplification reaction.